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O 01A - Activation of MMPs during experimental infection of goats by CAEV

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Abstract

Caprine arthritis encephalitis virus (CAEV) is a disease that affects goats of any breed, sex and age, showing an extensive incubation period. This study evaluated the MMPs behavior and activity in blood serum of goats experimentally infected by CAEV. Five adult goats' dairy herds were used, and the seronegativity was obtained after three consecutive Western Blotting (WB) and Nested-PCR (PCRn) tests, at 30-day interval. The animals were infected by CAEV-Cork virus strain, titer 105.6TCID₅₀/mL intravenously. Blood was collected by jugular vein before infection (step 1) and thereafter every week post-infection until the 23rd week. On step 1, all the animals presented proMMP9 (92 kDa) and MMP2 (64-66 kDa); in the seroconversion time (step 2), it was found the MMP2 (64-66 kDa) and MMP9 (80-84 kDa) besides the proMMP13 (48 kDa) that acts as mediator of others enzymes (LOFTUS and THOMPSON, 2002). On step 3 (post-seroconversion), it was observed the presence of MMPs 2 and 9 and its respective latent forms (Fig.1). On this step, one animal didn't show reaction to WB, although showed the same MMPs profile as seropositive animals. It happens due to "restricted replication" allowing the virus to remain latent in host monocytes, not being detectable by the immune system (PUGH, 2004). Then, as the proMMP13 activate the others MMPs and is presenting only in the first seroconversion, it can be used as a possible biomarker to CAE in recent infections.

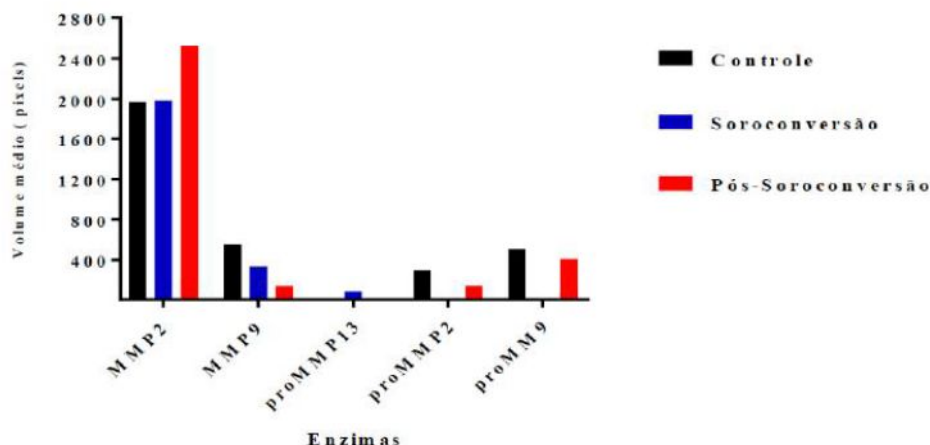


Figure 1. Mean volume in pixels of MMPs found in blood serum samples from experimentally infected animals by CAEV.

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